

a Cavalli

April 24, 1961

Dear Luca--

It was a great pleasure to hear your voice, which certainly does add a great deal to the intimacy of communication.

To help put it down on the record here, I will recapitulate some of your questions while answering them.

1. Yes the Interist check did arrive about two weeks after I had raised the issue; I should have confirmed this sooner. If the mechanism you suggest for expenses is convenient for you, it's fine for me. I was pleased that you have reestablished so cordial a relationship with Schering. At least as long as you are continuing with the 'fluorination' project, I will be very happy to continue on our present basis; but I would like it better if I could be more helpful, which may be the case when you get over the present ridiculous difficulties. What about other fluorinating agents, like the sulfur fluorides? Since dimethoxyphenyl penicillin is now beginning to turn up some resistant mutants, I would put particular emphasis on conjugates with penicillanic acid. (These don't necessarily have to be fluorinated! -- what about a screen on "yeast extract penicillins?")

* 2. As to travel plans, we are now planning to stay home this summer, particularly as the Kleins will be here for a 3 month visit, and there would be little point in leaving them behind. I have gradually succeeded in cutting down travel commitments, and may eventually have recovered enough to make a fresh approach. Certainly we would want very much to see you, and if any occasion comes up will make a serious effort. (There is a remote possibility of urgent reasons to go briefly to Moscow during the Biochemistry Congress, but this is about as doubtful as the recent COSPAR was.) I was 'on short notice' for Cospar, but when Ierussalimski wrote that he was not coming, that made it pretty obvious there was no point. I think I will have to say no for Naples in July. (Just as an academic point, would we have had to go by MATS? -- wouldn't Interist take care of a trip via Milan?)

3. I will be happy to get the research reports you indicated, viz. on DAP activation. Congratulations.

My course in medical genetics has finally come up, but I am enjoying it, except for having over 200 students and auditors (mostly a captive audience). I would have much less confidence in it if it weren't for your course! And I am using Stern's book fairly faithfully as a text, which is better for the students than my own disorganized type of presentation. I don't want ~~to~~ to press you to leave your work, as I think the distraction is basically detrimental to you, but you should know that we would welcome you here again to help in such teaching-- like the course you gave -- essentially at your own convenience, and leave it to us to organize the pretexts for it.

A Good friends of ours, Elliott Levinthal and his wife, are leaving for a European trip in a few days, and it is not altogether unlikely that you might hear from them during the next month. He is a physicist and engineer, working with me on the exobiology project. They are very nice people, and we have many mutual friends, and I am sure you would be very pleased to know them too if chance allows. At any rate they have your addresses and telephone. As ever, and to Alba and the children,